

(c) the progress made so far in this regard;

(d) the Research Units involved in the country for harnessing nuclear energy for agriculture; and

(e) the steps taken to promote the use of nuclear energy in the field of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c). Sir, Nuclear energy is being used for creating genetic variability in crops and for studying nutrient transformation as well as nutrient and water movement in soil. Several mutants including commercial cultivators have been developed in important crops such as wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and pulses. In Animal Sciences it is being used for radio-immuno assays, tracers for minerals and for vaccine production.

(d) and (e). The ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities are involved in harnessing nuclear energy for agriculture. They are collaborating with national and international agencies for promoting use of nuclear energy in the field of agriculture.

[English]

Rape of Minors in Delhi

2619. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rape of minors is fast becoming a trend in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents which occurred in Delhi during 1991 and 1992 so far; and

(c) the steps taken being taken to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The Delhi Police have

reported that number of cases of rape of minors from 1st January, 1991 to 15th February, 1992 is 131.

Amongst the steps taken are increased surveillance over the activities of bad characters, increased vigilance and intensive patrolling so that police presence and its effects are felt and serve as deterrent.

[Translation]

Austerity Measures in Indian Embassies

2620. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take austerity measures in Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). The Ministry of External Affairs have adopted austerity measures for Indian Missions and Posts abroad in line with the economy measures adopted by the Government of India. These involve general budgetary restrictions specific cuts in the allocation for capital expenditure and travel, and the exercise of the maximum possible economy in all expenditure.

[English]

Recruitment of Blinds in Government Service

2621. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blind persons in the country State-wise; and

(b) the number of blind persons recruited in the various Central Government offices during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) State-wise total number of estimated visually handicapped persons in the country, as per report of National Sample survey Organisation conducted during 1981 is given the statement attached.

(b) The placement of handicapped persons in gainful employment is done through the Employment Exchanges, Special Employment Exchanges and Special Cells in normal Employment Exchanges, Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for physically handicapped functioning under the

Ministry of Labour and through open competitions. The placement effected by Employment Exchanges to blind persons during the last three Years is as under:-

No. of Blind persons placed in Central Government Year-wise from 1988-1990.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Placement</i>
1988	136
1989	117
1990	108

STATEMENT

Estimated number (per 1,00,000) Persons having visual disability

<i>State</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>
Andhra Pradesh	709	426
Assam	190	168
Bihar	518	291
Gujarat	481	244
Haryana	530	473
Himachal Pradesh	398	348
Jammu & Kashmir	248	141
Karnataka	593	315
Kerala	255	303
Madhya Pradesh	484	309
Maharashtra	528	307
Manipur	203	68
Meghalaya	251	139
Nagaland	Not surveyed	35
Orissa	738	501

<i>State</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>
Punjab	727	373
Rajasthan	635	376
Tamil Nadu	565	637
Tripura	585	395
Uttar Pradesh	664	394
West Bengal	364	219
Chandigarh	143	111
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	318	No Urban Area
Delhi	419	173
Goa, Daman & Diu	451	216
Mizoram	226	95
Pondicherry	814	1,259
All India	558	256

Exploration of Oil in Tripura**[Translation]**

2622. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has commissioned 60th well at Pacharthal in Tripura recently for oil exploration; and

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of oil to be explored from it?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The 60th well, Khubal-1, in Pacharthal area is presently under drilling by ONGC. It is too early to speculate on the nature and quantity of hydrocarbons that may be discovered.

Consumption and Production of LPG

2623. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of LPG, State-wise;

(b) the number of LPG agencies, State-wise;

(c) the details of the consumption and production of the LPG during each of the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between consumption and production?